

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 151400Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT/EI

SUBJ: LYNCH PLANS STILL NOT CLEAR

1. IF OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH HAS THOUGHT THROUGH HIS PLANS, HE HAS NOT CONFIDED HIS THOUGHTS TO OTHERS IN HIS PARTY. FIANNA FAIL MEMBERS AND LEADERS HAVE RUSHED TO SAY THAT HE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER RESIGNING OVER A BLUNDER WHICH DID NOT RAISE ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE, POLICY, OR HONESTY. MOST CONSPICUOUS PARTY FIGURE WHO HAS FAILED TO SPEAK IS CHARLES HAUGHEY, WHO HAS NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HIS INTEREST IN FIANNA FAIL LEADERSHIP.

2. STUDENTS OF LYNCH PSYCHOLOGY HAVE SUGGESTED SEVERAL REASONS FOR HIS THREAT TO RESIGN. HE WILL SOON FACE FIANNA FAIL CONVENTION, AND ONE THEORY IS THAT HE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN PERSONAL POSITION BEFORE BEING ASKED TO EXPLAIN WHY HE CALLED GENERAL ELECTION, FOUGHT IT ON WRONG ISSUE, AND FUMBLER LITTLEJOHN CASE. THREAT TO RESIGN IS CERTAINLY AN EFFECTIVE REMINDER THAT PARTY NEEDS HIM MORE THAN HE NEEDS PARTY. THREAT IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH LYNCH'S TRADITIONAL POSTURE AS RELUCTANT LEADER WHO DOES NOT COVET POWER.

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3. THREAT TO RESIGN ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE HALF-HEARTED IS NEVERTHE-
LESS A SERIOUS MOVE, EVEN IF LYNCH REMAINS IN HIS POSITION.
VIEWED STRICTLY AS A TACTIC, HIS HINT SEEMS BOTH
DANGEROUS AND INAPPROPRIATE. PROBABLY, THEREFORE TACTICAL
CONSIDERATIONS ARE MIXED WITH A REAL PERSONAL FEELING THAT THE
DEMANDS OF LEADERSHIP HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GREATER THAN THE REWARDS.

4. REPUBLIC'S BIGGEST NEWSPAPER, "IRISH INDEPENDENT," TERMS
LYNCH'S REACTION "DISPROPORTIONATE." EDITORIALS IN OTHER LEADING
PAPERS FOLLOW SAME LINE. "IRISH TIMES" SAYS: "YESTERDAY WAS
THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR. THE POLITICIANS SHOULD LEARN, AS
OTHERS DO, TO KEEP COOL. MR. LYNCH COULD DO WITH HIS RESIGNATION
OFFER JUST WHAT HE DID WITH THE LITTLEJOHN NEWS--AND FORGET IT.
FOR ONE THING, HIS POSITION, AT A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE COUNTRY,
IS NOT ONE FROM WHICH HE CAN REASONABLY STEAL AWAY."

5. WITH LYNCH'S THREAT STILL IN THE AIR AND LIKELY TO REMAIN
THERE FOR SOME DAYS, IT ALSO REMAINS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHETHER
LASTING DAMAGE WILL BE DONE TO ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS. HIS ACTUAL
RESIGNATION WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BAD EFFECT. AS IT IS, LYNCH
IS STILL SUGGESTING INQUIRY INTO SPYING THOUGH HE IS APPARENTLY
NOT PUSHING IDEA VERY HARD. THERE IS SOME PUBLIC AND
OFFICIAL SUSPICION THAT BRITISH PLANTED DUBLIN BOMBS, DESPITE
ABSOLUTE LACK OF EVIDENCE. TO BALANCE THIS, THERE IS ALSO WIDE
UNDERSTANDING OF NEED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND, BOTH BE-
CAUSE OF NI PROBLEM AND BECAUSE OF REPUBLIC'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH
ENGLAND. SO FAR PUBLIC/ANTI-BRITISH FEELINGS ARE MUCH LESS
INTENSE THAN IN EMBASSY-BURNING PERIOD AFTER "BLOODY SUNDAY."
MOORE

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